

Information about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

On December 19, 2020, the FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to protect people 18 years or older from COVID-19 infection.

This fact sheet contains information about the Moderna vaccine that is intended to help you make the most informed decision possible about getting the vaccine to better protect yourself, your loved ones, and tribal communities, both urban and rural.

Who is the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for?

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized for those 18 years or older. However, you should talk with your provider to discuss the risks and benefits before getting the vaccine if you:

- have any allergies.
- have a bleeding disorder or are on a blood thinner.
- are immunocompromised or are taking medication that affects your immune system.
- have a fever.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- are breastfeeding.
- have received another COVID-19 vaccine (U.S. FDA, 2020a).

You should not get the vaccine if you have had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of the vaccine or if you have had a severe allergic reaction to any of the vaccine ingredients (U.S. FDA, 2020a). A list of ingredients can be found on the official Moderna fact sheet (U.S. FDA, 2020a).

Is the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine safe?

Over 30,000 people participated in testing the vaccine, and roughly 15,000 people received at least one dose. The clinical trial included a diverse population of participants including a small number of Natives (0.8%), people over the age of 65 (24.8%), and people with at least one high-risk condition (22.2%) such as chronic lung disease, cardiac disease, obesity, and diabetes. Research studies are ongoing, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring any negative side effects that occur (U.S. FDA, 2020b).

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How does the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine work?

The Moderna vaccine uses mRNA technology to start an immune response in our bodies that will produce antibodies to protect against future infection of COVID-19.

mRNA has been studied for decades, and Moderna and other companies used this technology to assist in creating the current vaccines. More information about mRNA vaccines can be found on the CDC website (CDC, 2020).

How is the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine given?

- The vaccine is given in a series of two doses given one month apart.
- The vaccine is injected into the muscle in your upper arm.
- After receiving the first dose, you must plan on returning within 28 days for the second dose.

Will the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine prevent me from getting COVID-19?

Clinical trials indicate that the Moderna vaccine has been shown to prevent COVID-19, however it may not protect everyone (U.S. FDA, 2020b). It is important to continue to practice all safety measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19, including:

- wearing a mask.
- social distancing.
- washing your hands.
- following local public health recommendations.

What are the benefits of getting vaccinated?

- We protect ourselves from serious illness and make our communities less vulnerable to infection.
- We are significantly less likely to present severe COVID-19 symptoms or fall deathly ill.

What are the risks of getting vaccinated?

Common side effects that have been reported after receiving the Moderna vaccine include:

- pain, swelling, or redness at the injection site.
- tenderness and swelling of the lymph nodes in the same arm of the injection.
- headache or fatigue.
- muscle or joint pain.
- chills or fever.
- nausea or vomiting (U.S. FDA, 2020a).

These symptoms typically resolve within 24 hours. Call your provider if any side effects do not go away. In addition, you can report any side effects to ModernaTX, Inc. at **1-866-MODERNA (1-866-663-3762)**.

While more serious side effects, such as severe allergic reactions and Bell's palsy, have been reported, these side effects are generally considered rare and there is currently not enough information to determine if they were caused by the vaccine (FDA, 2020b).

If you have other concerns or questions, the Moderna Call Center is available from 8am to 8pm EST, Monday through Friday and can be reached at **1-866-MODERNA (1-866-663-3762)**.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, December 18). *Understanding mRNA COVID-19 vaccines*. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html

United States Food and Drug Administration (2020a). *Fact sheet for recipients and caregivers: Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in people 18 years of age and older*. www.fda.gov/media/144638/download

United States Food and Drug Administration. (2020b, December 10). *Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee: FDA Briefing Document*. www.fda.gov/media/144245/download